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DISASTROUS FIRE IN CENTER OF THE RETAIL DISTRICT.

Only Bare Walls Now Mark the Location of Eastman, Schleicher & Lee's and Indiana National Bank.

MONEY VAULTS

THE WESTERN UNION OPERATING ROOMS ALSO BURNED OUT.

Merchants in Adjoining Buildings Lose Considerably, and Many Offices Damaged by Water and Smoke.

ORIGIN OF FIRE UNKNOWN

MOVEMENTS OF A MAN WHO DE-MANDED MONEY OF MR. EASTMAN.

Insufficiency of the Fire Apparatus-List of Insurance Policies-Burned-Out Firms Preparing to Reopen.

One of the most disastrous fires that ever visited the retail business portion of the city started yesterday morning, shortly after 6 o'clock, in the carpet, queensware Eastman, Schleicher & Lee, at Nos. 7 and 9 East Washington street. The building was owned by Mr. Pettis, of New York. one of the proprietors of the New York store. The flames spread with wonderful rapidity, and others suffered extensive loss. There was a strong west wind blowing at the time, which carried the smoke and sparks eastward, placing the buildings in that direction in great peril. The Indiana National Bank building, which adjoins the Pettis building, was completely destroyed but the four massive vaults in the rear o the bank, which contained hundreds of thousands in money and several million dollars worth of valuable papers, with stood the great heat, thereby preventing an enormous loss. The New York Store building caught fire, but the firm's fire force fought the flames from within, and the principal loss there is from water. The stock from the top floor to the cellar was damaged. The Condit building a six-story block on South Meridian street, whose rear meets that of the Pettis building, caught, and not until the entire apparatus of the Western Union Telegraph Company, on the sixth floor, was destroyed and the huilding flooded were the flames extinguished.

FIRE'S GOOD START. The stock of at least a dozen firms was ruined by water and smoke. Dozens of offices were gutted. For three hours the department worked untiringly, and during the time it thought that the entire block was doomed to destruction. The entire loss is estimated in the neighborhood of \$400,

It is thought that the fire first started n the cellar of Eastman, Schleicher & Lee's establishment, and that it burned for some time before breaking forth and giving evidence of its existence. At 6 o'clock some laborers on their way work observed smoke coming from the basement through the stones of the front sidewalk. About the same time two of the boys of the District Messenger office observed smoke coming from the rear of the building, and within a few minutes an alarm was turned in. The department was quick in responding. Nelson Blackwell, janitor at the store, was just opening rived. At a glance it was seen that the the situation was realized immediately. A second and a third alarm were turned in, calling out the entire department of the city. The flames could be seen creeping along the ceilings and around the casethe center of the building which allowed the light to come down from the skylight was as a flue. Dense smoke came from the cellar and passed upward, and the entire interior seemed to be on fire. The firemen carried several lines of hose in the buildings, but they were soon driven to the street by the smoke and flames. Fire and smoke poured from each of the five stories of the building and crept around and over the buildings to the east. The heat became intense, and the firemen were forced to fight the flames from distance or from buildings to the west, it being impossible to remain on those to the east. Had the department had a water tower six or seven streams could have been poured in on the top, the building flooded and an end put to the fire, it is thought. The water supply was good, but hardly sufficient to reach the roof of a five-story building.

THEN AN EXPLOSION. While the firemen were at work, still hoping to check the fire in Eastman, Schleicher & Lee's, an explosion was heard in the rear portion, which shook the neighborhood. The flames burst forth with renewed energy, fairly wrapping the Indiana Bank building in their grasp. The cause of the explosion is unknown, but it might have been from gas or from varnish, there ing furniture and queensware, was exceltion. So great was the heat that several times the buildings across the street caught and every spark that fell or every little blaze that started was extinguished. While the fire at Eastman, Schleicher &

Lee's was raging Mrs. Mary Miller, a Ger-

came out, looked at the burning building next door and returned to the bank. The watchman and janttor were outside, and she would not leave. Vaulce Saunders, the colored janitor, came in and told Mrs. Miller to get out as soon as possible. She beame frightened by this, and Saunders had to carry her forth. As they were leaving a portion of the Pettis wall fell through the skylight of the bank, and one of the flying bricks struck Saunders on the head He was not seriously injured, but had Mrs. Miller remained in the bank office she would have been buried under the falling wall. Already the fire had commenced to creep along the walls of the bank building. A twenty-three-inch fire wall separa-Eastman, Schleicher & Lee's, the bank building was ablaze from top to bottom. smoke came from the four floors and from the top, the flames springing eastward, joining those from the adjoining building. It looked extremely bad for the property east of the same square. All the time the wind was blowing, and the fire seemed to be creeping rapidly and surely toward other buildings. The old buildings belonging to the Johnson heirs, of Phil- that these walls will have to come down, adelphia, directly east of the bank building, seemed to be in the direct line of destruction, and across the alley from them day afternoon and last night several was the five-story building of the New streams of water were kept on the burn-

Thousands of persons were attracted to six floors of the building, including the celthe scene by the smoke. Many of them lar, were occupied by a stock of carpets, were strangers, who came to the city on furniture, chinaware and draperies, which the early trains to attend the State fair. was probably the largest stock in the Thousands of persons were on the way to | State. There was a meeting of the memwork. All street-car traffic was, of course, stopped, and at a safe distance the work of the destructive flames was watched by borhood of \$160,000. The firm carries insurall. From the Eastman, Schleicher & Lee ance to the amount of \$100,000. Later in building could be heard the sound of the day the firm purchased the business breaking china and glassware as the re- of Herman Martens at Market and Pennsult of the heat. The women in the crowd sylvania streets and will reopen in these groaned as they realized that so many pretty and costly pieces of bric-a-brac were being ruined, and had it not been for the policemen and ropes some men, no doubt, would have risked the fire for the sake of recovering a few choice pieces. The men were more interested, however, in the bank, and many speculations were heard regarding the durability of the vaults and their power to withstand the heat. The rear portion of the bank was constructed so as to be fireproof. It was but a story high, with a dome-shaped, stained-glass roof, supported by steel girders. In this part were the four vaults. The hot bricks from the wall fell around them, and the fire from the adjoining building came in, wrapping them flames. The upper floors of the bank building had been burning, and they fell, adding to the heat to which the vaults were exposed. The second floor fell with a crash. A man in the crowd who knew the meaning of the sound remarked:

deposit in that bank to-day." Mr. Harris had his law office directly above the bank, and it was his heavy safe that fell through and caused the crash, It will be some time before Mr. Harris can remove this deposit from the bank.

"Ad Harris is the only man to make a

OTHER BUILDINGS THREATENED. old, and constructed of brick, with a great deal of wood about them. One is four stories high and the other of three stories, and they stand as marks in the business portion of the city. It was not thought that they could be saved, for, unlike other buildings in the block, they have pine shingle roofs. But their lack of height probably saved them from destruction, for the flames passed over them, as they were protected by the higher walls of the bank buildings. Nevertheless, it was necessary to throw much water upon the two old buildings, and the occupants suffered greatly from water and smoke. Several times flames appeared on the casements of the windows of the New York store building, but by vigilance no

disastrous loss from fire occurred. The building occupied by Eastman. Schleicher & Lee extended from Washington to Pearl street, and the Condit buildng, on South Meridian street, is very near it. The excitement in the Condit building was intense all during the progress of the fire. A blaze would appear in half a dozen places at once, and many times the building was thought to be doomed. The Condit building is six stories high, and in it are many offices, which were deserted. The office furniture was carried to places of safety and water was thrown on freely. Streams poured down the stairway, making cascades. The fire crept along the cornice work making a fight to secure a hold, which weigh several tons. The building is surrounded by a network of wires, many of which were torn down. It was feared hat the weight of the batteries and the water would cause the building to collapse, but it stood up well and secure. Long after the Eastman, Schleicher & Lee building had burned to the ground and the fire at the bank building was extinguished. and all danger from fire to buildings at the cast was passed, the Condit building continued in peril. At 10:30 o'clock all evidence of fire was gone and all fears for he destruction of the entire block were

The Claypool building, at the southeast corner of Washington and Meridian streets. was damaged by water, but was saved from destruction by the wind, which blew the flames away from it. Many of the offices in the building were ruined, as was the stock in two stores on the ground floor.

A STRANGER'S ACTIONS.

Demanded Money of Mr. Eastman a Short Time Ago. Mr. Eastman does not take much stock in the theory that the fire was of incendiary origin. A short time ago a man entered the store and asked for Mr. Eastman. He demanded money from him and declared that he was Mr. Eastman's brother. Mr. Eastman had him put out of the store and saw no more of him.

Last week a man was seen at Danville lying under a water tank. He told strange story to the people of that place. When several Indianapolis people, who were attending the Hinshaw trial, went to the depot to take the train for this city Jesse Hamrick had a short talk with the man. Mr. Hamrick sald afterward that the those who heard the story from Mr. Hamrick whether the man made threats in his talk against Mr. Eastman or not. The man was apparently a tramp and seemed to be somewhere about fifty years of age, maybe five to eight years older or younger. He was in such condition and so broken that it would be a difficult thing to judge

Mr. Eastman was seen last night and asked of his being put out of the place. He said it was not his brother, and that such calls were of no uncommon occurrence

for money I settle with them that quick, by simply putting them out of the store and then think nothing more of it."

When asked if he had not connected this occurrence with the fire he said he had not, for he had not given the matter a thought after it occurred, and did not know that the man had made any threats. When told of what had been heard in Danville, he said

that would make it appear as if there might be something in the theory that the store had been fired for revenge, although he did not then think such was the case, for, he said, to have set the store afire in the man-ner in which it was done it would have been necessary for the incendiary to have been inside, and he knew of nothing to in-dicate that any one had broken into the place. He was inclined to believe that elec-tric wires had caused the fire. He said there had been trouble with the wires be-

fore.

As Mr. Eastman says, it would have been necessary for the incendiary to have entered the store to fire it. Henry Wetzel, the man who first saw the fire, said last night that, so far as he could remember, he saw no indication of the store having been forcibly entered. He was in the rear of it, where such an entry would most likely be made, for a man could hardly escape from the front without being detected.

RICHES IN THE VAULTS. Fortunate for the Bank that the Fire

Did Not Occur Later. Four tottering walls remain to mark the spot where stood the Eastman, Schleicher

& Lee establishment. Building Inspector Pendergast yesterday afternoon decided and in the meanwhile the police will keep people from getting in danger. All yestering ruins of the stock and building. The bers of the firm yesterday afternoon, at tire stock, not a single piece of china or a yard of carpet being saved. The ashes and debris of the valuable stock rests in a heap in the cellar, still smoldering and over which the firemen were throwing

The building is as much of a wreck as s the stock. The walls were built strong and secure, being twenty-three inches in thickness. The rafters of the building, however, were all wood. In the rear was an elevator shaft which was largely responsible for the spread of the fire from one floor to the other. The floors were of wood, and the fire once started, found fuel for growth. The front of the building was stone, all of which will have to come down. The building was built by Mr. Pettis expressly for Eastman, Schleicher & Lee at a cost of \$35,000. Mr. Pettis is in Paris at The Indiana National Bank building is almost a complete wreek. The front and east walls stand secure and may do for another building. The building was the property of Volney T. Malott, president of the Indiana National Bank. The building been recently refitted and repaired, and the bank was the handsomest in the city. All the furniture was new and ele gant and the rear portion was covered by a dome-shaped roof under which were the vaults and bank offices. Had the fire come two hours later the loss might have reached millions, for then the four vaults would have been open and the books and money for the day would have been out.

THE BANK FORTUNATE. Mr. Malott said, regarding this feature

"It was extremely fortunate for us that hand and the vaults would have been open. seems that the fire spread rapidly, so loubt very much if the money and papers could have been returned to the vaults and the doors locked. There probably would have been loss of life if the fire had come later, for the entire force could not have escaped. I never thought for a minute that the fire wall which separated my building from the other would give way, but it seems that so intense was the heat that no wall could have withstood

Mr. Malott feels highly gratified at the way the four vaults withstood the heat. They were constructed especially strong and after completion were pronounced the best in the West. Every night the books have been placed in a vault and they were there at the time of the fire. No sooner was the fire discovered in the bank by Mr. Majott than he telegraphed for a safe expert, who came and went into the building they could be opened as soon as they had cooled, and as soon as possible the contents will be removed. Two tottering walls are to be removed first. Had the vaults failed to withstand the heat or been open at the time of the fire, a faint idea of the loss can be tained when it is said that in them ere was \$930,000 in gold, \$48,900 in sliver, \$175,000 in legal tender, \$21,000 in bank bills, \$1,364 in small change, \$245,000 in checks on other banks, besides valuable papers, the books and valuables held in trust. The opening time of the bank yesterday morning was 9 o'clock and within thirty minutes after that hour business was be- inent Indianians powert, among alion

Company. Other banks came to the assist-ance of Mr. Malott, whose funds were held secure by redhot vaults, and checks were paid and money deposited as at the old stand. Mr. Malott will rebuild at once. The building destroyed was valued at \$50,000, which was insured. In the bank room there was a clock, a thermometer and two glass windows which were not broken, although the heat was so intense as to burn all the furniture. Every-

A. C. HARRIS'S LOSS, Above the bank was the law office of A. C. Harris. The latter's valuable law library. down town to learn that the volumes which he has been a lifetime in collecting had been ruined. Only a few of the books

hing else was destroyed

escaped destruction.

On the third floor of the bank building was the wood engraving establishment of Thomas Chandler, in which there were furniture, all of which was destroyed able furniture, all of which was destroyed.

Mr. Chandler carries a small insurance.

The occupants of the two buildings of the Moses Johnson heirs lose principally by water. No. 15 East Washington street is occupied by the United States, the Pacific, and B. & O. express companies. The floor was flooded to a depth of two feet and considerable express matter was damaged. It was impossible to estimate the loss, but the office reopened after a few repairs. George Mannfeld, tailor, occupies No. 17. He carried a stock valued at from \$25,000 to \$40,000, all which was soaked. Mr. \$25,000 to \$40,000, all which was soaked. Mr. Mannfeld carries insurance to the amount of \$16,000, which is thought will cover loss. George Wingerten occupies No. 19 with a stock of cigars and tobacco, and he places his loss at \$5,000, covered by inrance. J. W. Hart & Co. occu with a stock of shoes. The firm's loss was by water and Mr. Hart is unable to esti-mate it, but he proposes to open at the same number in a few days. The rooms upstairs in the Johnson buildings were occupied chiefly as offices, W. A. Ketcham, Frank Edenharter, S. H. were soaked by the water thrown on the roof to prevent the buildings from burning. John Caven, ex-Mayor, and Simon Yandes have rooms in the same building, which they have occupied for years. They suffer no loss but from water. Mr. Caven is out of the city, and Mr. Yandes will have to

All of the floors of the New York store were covered with water thrown on the

roof to extinguish sparks and small flames. Several times the flames got a start and threatened to spread, but the energy of the fire force and the city department saved the building from serious loss.

During the fire the Blackford Block, west of the Eastman, Schleicher & Lee build-

DEDICATION OF INDIANA'S MONU-MENTS ON CHICKAMAUGA FIELD.

Elaborate, Interesting Exercises on the Historic Battle Ground, in Which Well-Known Men Participated.

MANY HOOSIERS PRESENT

SENTIMENT OF THE SPEAKERS COM-MENDED BY EX-CONFEDERATES.

Programme So Long that Gen. Lew Wallace Finally Decided Not to

Deliver His Address.

JUDGE M'CONNELL'S SPEECH

FOLLOWED BY AN ELOQUENT AD-DRESS BY GOV. MATTHEWS.

Remarks of Col. L. N. Walker, Commander-in-Chief of the G. A. R. Intensely Hot Day at Cave Springs.

Special to the Indianapolis Journal. CHICKAMAUGA, Ga., Sept. 18 .- In spite the fierce heat which blazed down through the scanty shade near Cave Springs, where the services of dicating the Indiana monuments w held, a large and deepty interested audience remained during the two and a half hours which the exercises consumed. Hoosiers composed the larger part of the audience, still, there were a goodly number from elsewhere, including a sprinkling of ex-Confederates, who rode their orses to the place and sat about the outkirts of the crowd, most eager listeners to the addresses. These men could be casily

picked out of the crowd by their dress and their general appearance. "I want to hear all that your people have to say," said one, "from their own mouths," There was no more intent listener on the field, and when asked at the close what he thought of it, he said: "I agree with every word, for every reference to us was kind and for a

Because of the illness of General Morton C. Hunter, the chairman of the Chickaman. ga Comission, Colonel R. M. Johnson, of Elkhart, a member of the commission, presided. The Whiteland Band, which came with the Indiana party, furnished excellent music. Rev. Dr. Lucas offered prayer, a prayer, of which an ex-Confederate said; "He prayed for the whole of us." Colonel Johnson, in his introduction of speakers, consumed over half an hour. The first address was that of Judge McConnell, of Logansport, a member of the commission. He was followed by Governor Matthews, and General Carnahan was the next speaker. His address was of special interest, because he set forth the parts which each Indiana regiment took in the great battle. Hundreds who were not from Indiana waited to hear General Wallace, but it was 5 o'clock when his name was reached on the programme, so that when he was introduced all that he did was to say that he would not detain the audience with an address. He said he had been invited to speak with General Harrison and Governor Matthews, but the programme had since been changed, and that it was then too late to speak. Many had waited till that hour to hear. him, but General Wallace would not speak. His friends here, for the most part, believe that he did the right thing under the circumstances. Colonel Walker did not give the whole of his short address. General

General Wallace was placed next to the Among the distinguished Indiana soldiers who were on the platform were General Wilder, of the famous Wilder Britade; Gen. A. I. Miller, of the command of General Scribner, who wen fame on the field, and General Hilborn. There are many prom-Steele and Colonel George W. Parker, of Pendleton, Every Indiana

Wallace went home to-night. To General

Carnahan had been assigned the history of

the Indiana regiments, which caused his

address to be so long. The mistake was in

the making up of the programme, by which

None of the Indiana monuments is coleted, but the foundation of all are reading the inscriptions. Here and there crowds of men could be heard discussing the battle, fighting it over again. To-night not less than a thousand Indiana people are on the field and most of them will not return until Friday or Saturday.

There is a large campfire to-night at the Wilder brigade headquarters, which is attended by most of the Indiana men.

Mr. Shoup, an Indianian who went into the Confederate army from Indianapolis with Senator Voorhees's letter, is here to-night.

JUDGE M'CONNELL'S ADDRESS.

Review of Some Phases of the War and a Tribute to the Hoosiers. Hon, D. B. McConnell, of Logansport, was the first speaker at the Indiana exer-

cises. He said in part: "We are assembled upon one of the great battlefields of the world, for the purpose of ican, native or by adoption, is i dy and mind in decay, para

Sunday Journal, by Mail, to Any Address, \$2. ing the furniture. Mrs. Miller did not re-